

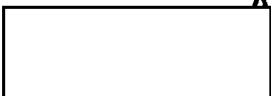
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT



COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)  
SUBJECT Autumn Sowings in Mecklenburg

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- On 24 October 1947, 140,000 hectares of land were still to be sown in Mecklenburg; there was also a deficiency of 8,000 tons of seeds. On 25 October 1947, the SMA at Schwerin placed 4,000 tons of seeds at the disposal of the Mecklenburg Ministry of Agriculture. The Vereinigung der gegenseitigen Bauernhilfe (VdgB) promised to repay these by 1 December 1947. The target date for completion of the autumn sowings was put back from 1 November 1947 to 11 November 1947.
- On 12 November 1947, there were still 34,000 hectares to be sown. It was officially estimated that 99% of the rye, 66% of the winter wheat, and 52% of the winter barley had been sown. The necessary seeds for the remaining acreage were becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain, and the VdgB was instructed to drag these out of the farmers' private supplies ("Freie Spitzen"). The whole of the supervisory and police apparatus of the Ministry of Agriculture was set into action to root out the last seed from the farmers in order to achieve the target set for the sowings.
- Despite these difficulties, the position of agriculture in Mecklenburg is officially estimated to have improved over previous years, as the amount of seeds on loan from the SMA is less than in 1945 and 1946.
- The Mecklenburg press is making great play of the fact that the SMA delivered five times as much artificial fertilizer in 1947 than in 1946. As the 1946 deliveries amounted to 0.009% of the needs, the 1947 delivery of 0.045% does not improve matters to any great extent. The sum total of deliveries in 1947 amounted to 300 tons.
- Cattle from Saxony and Thuringia were being bartered for fodder from Mecklenburg. However, most of the cattle arrived in such a starved condition, that they had to be slaughtered. This resulted in a temporary improvement of the meat ration in the towns.

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